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04-25-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant(s):	D.Wade Walke, <i>et al.</i>	Group Art Unit: 1652
Application No.:	09/833,782	Examiner: M.A. Walicka
Filed:	4/12/2001	
Title:	Novel Human Metalloprotease and Polynucleotides Encoding the Same	Atty. Docket No. LEX-0161-USA

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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**  
**DATED JANUARY 18, 2002**

RECEIVED  
APR 25 2002  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Applicants acknowledge the receipt of the Office Action ("the Action") mailed on January 18, 2002 (Paper No. 8), which has been carefully reviewed and studied. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the following amendments and remarks. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks. In order to facilitate the Examiner's evaluation of the application, Applicants have attempted to address the objections and rejections in Paper No.8 in the same order in which they were originally raised. Also included herewith as Exhibit A is a marked-up version of the claims showing the amendments made herein; as Exhibit B is a clean copy of the claims that will be pending upon entry of the present amendment and as **Exhibit C** is a copy of GENBANK Accession No. AJ300837.

**AMENDMENT**

**In the claims:**

Please amend Claims 1 and 2 so that the text of the amended claims reads as follows:

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1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of  
AI SEQ ID NO:1.